

Amendment No. 1 to HB0903

Hawk  
Signature of Sponsor

**AMEND Senate Bill No. 1140**

**House Bill No. 903\***

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 70, Chapter 2, is amended by adding the following new language as new part 3:

70-2-301. The wildlife resources commission is directed to promulgate reasonable rules and regulations necessary to promote commercial fishing activity as an economically viable commercial enterprise in Tennessee.

70-2-302.

(a) The agency shall request approval from the Convention for the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) to establish a length limit of no less than thirty-six (36) inches and an annual season length no shorter than November 15 to April 15. Should the approval not be granted, the agency is authorized to negotiate conditions under which the approval would be granted.

70-2-303.

(a) Tennessee residents shall be given preference in licensing with a limit on the number of non-resident permits.

(b) All nets shall be properly buoyed to promote safety on the waters of the state.

(c) The agency shall develop a plan to study sustainability, population conditions, and juvenal survival rates on waters not currently open to commercial roe fishing. With the assistance of the commercial fishing community in harvest surveys, such study shall include at least the following objectives:

(1) Description of the size structure and age structure of the existing paddlefish population;

(2) Determination of paddlefish population parameters including growth, recruitment, and natural mortality; and

(3) Assessment of the likelihood that the paddlefish population can provide a sustainable commercial fishery.

70-2-304. To insure that the views of the commercial fishing community are appropriately communicated as well as to assist the wildlife resources agency in developing rules and regulations on commercial fishing there is created a commercial fishing advisory committee. The committee members shall be named by the wildlife resources executive director and shall include but not be limited to licensed commercial fishers and roe fishers, dealers, and buyers. The members of the committee shall serve as volunteers and shall not be paid or reimbursed for time served as committee members.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.